

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention is directed to the cloning,  
5 sequencing and expression of homologous immunoreactive 28-kDa  
protein genes, *p28-1*, -2, -3, -5, -6, -7, -9, from a polymorphic  
multiple gene family of *Ehrlichia canis*. Further disclosed is a  
multigene locus encoding all nine homologous 28-kDa protein genes  
of *Ehrlichia canis*. Recombinant *Ehrlichia canis* 28-kDa proteins  
10 react with convalescent phase antiserum from an *E. canis*-infected  
dog, and may be useful in the development of vaccines and  
serodiagnostics that are particularly effective for disease prevention  
and serodiagnosis.